

Washington, D.C. -- Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced that the Broome County Health Department (BCHD) in Binghamton, New York will receive a \$2.1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to prevent childhood lead poisoning. In December 2010, Hinchey wrote to HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan in support of the county's application for a Lead Hazard Control grant, which would allow for dangerous levels of lead to be removed from 100 homes in Binghamton's First Ward.

"When children are exposed to lead they can be poisoned, leading to brain damage and other health problems," said Hinchey. "This is a major problem, particularly in communities with older houses built when the risks of lead poisoning were unknown. As a consequence, 44 Broome County children were diagnosed last year with elevated levels of lead in their blood. The good news is that as a result of this funding, families in 100 houses in Binghamton will know that their children are safe from this very real risk."

This three-year program will allow the county to work with its partner, First Ward Action Council, Inc., to address the serious problem of lead poisoning in the community. The grant will also be used to conduct 45 educational outreach events to raise community awareness about the risks of lead contamination and provide training for 288 individuals.

"I would like to commend Congressman Hinchey for his persistent leadership and support in obtaining \$2.1 million in funding over three years for the Broome County HUD Lead Hazard Control Grant," said Claudia Edwards, Public Health Director for BCHD. "This funding will allow us to tackle a pervasive public health problem for children by preventing lead toxicity in the early pediatric years. We intend to work closely with landlords and homeowners to provide information, education and training to properly engage them in lead remediation and clean-up approaches that are EPA certified."

First Ward Action Council Executive Director Jerry Willard said, "We are happy to be able to provide for actual physical intervention in this menace known as lead poisoning. Part of First Ward Action Council's role will be to oversee the removal of lead-based paint from pre-1978 homes where children were known to have had elevated levels of lead in their blood. It will be good to be part of a project that helps to create a legacy of lead-safe homes in our community. This is a very positive undertaking on the part of the Broome County Health Department."

Hinchey Helps Secure \$2.1 Million Grant to Help Stop Childhood Lead Poisoning in Binghamton

Thursday, 13 January 2011 15:02

Hinchey's letter to Donovan can be found [here](#) 